NIGERU NATSU

Story 1:

Summer Escapade

Scanned: Himmelsfalter

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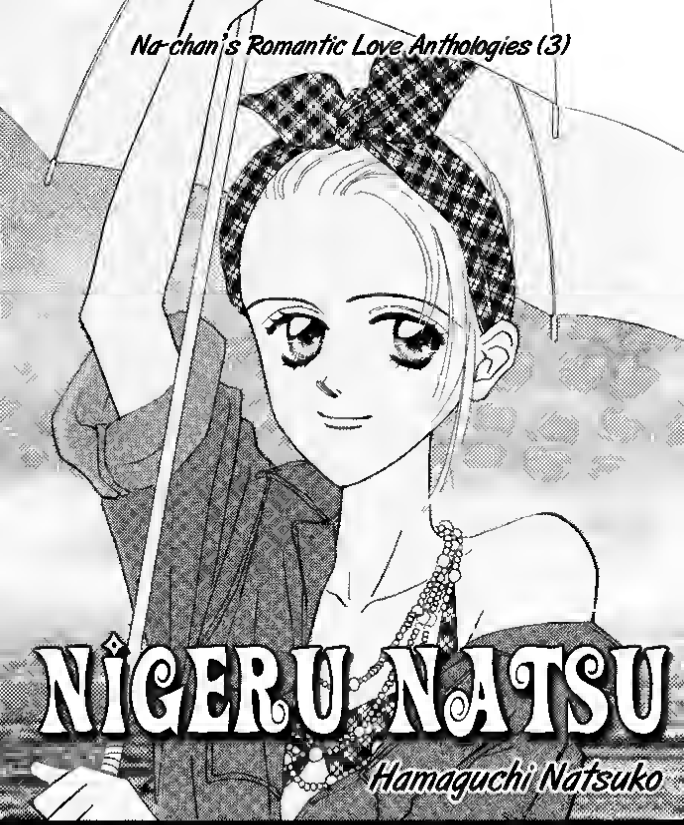
Quality Check: Kalendel

Storm in Heaven
http://www.stormInHeaven.net

Na-chan's Romantic Love Anthologies (3)



NIGERU NATSU

Hamaguchi Natsuko

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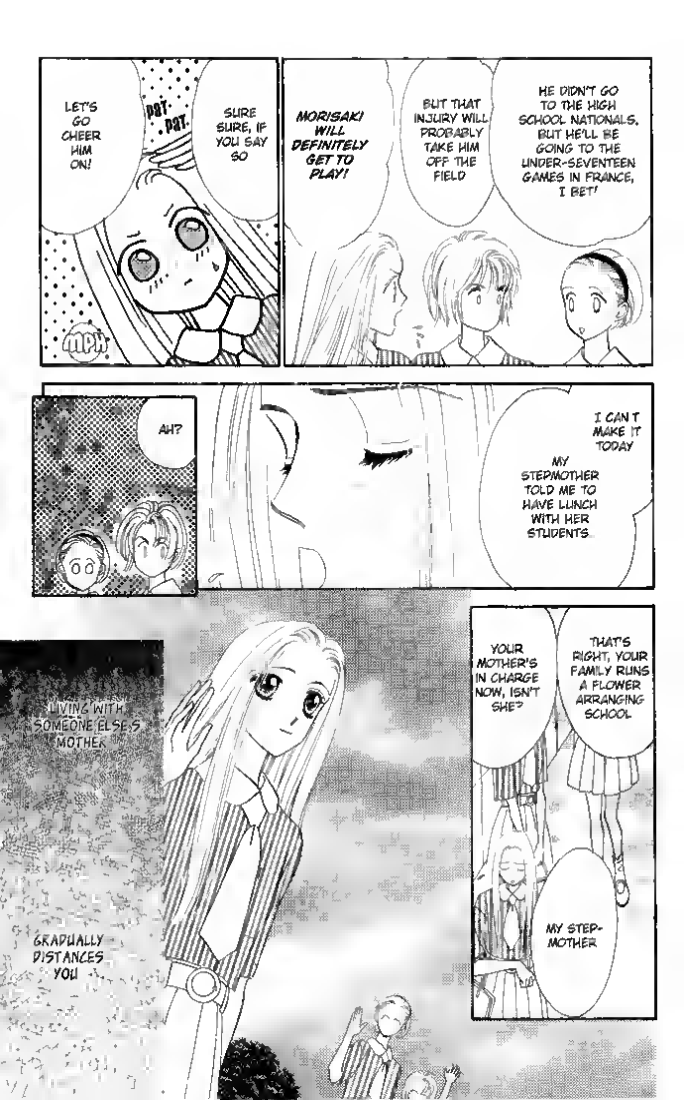
"BETSUCOMI FLOWER COMICS"

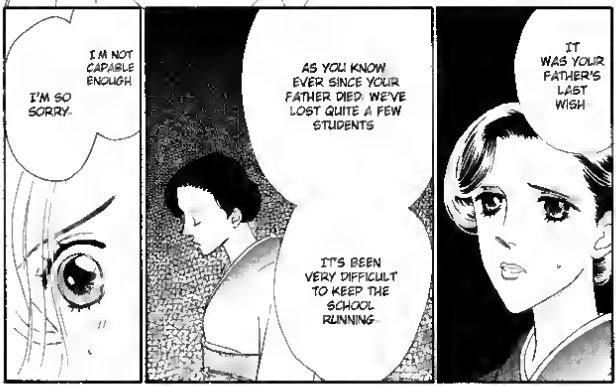
Summer
Escapade

AH... IT'S FINALLY SUMMER VACATION!
It's pretty warm out!
CHIHAYA, LET'S GO TO BASKIN ROBBINS!
AH
OH, RIGHT. HER ROUTINE.
NOT A CHANCE, NOT WITH HER
WHAT!?
KICK

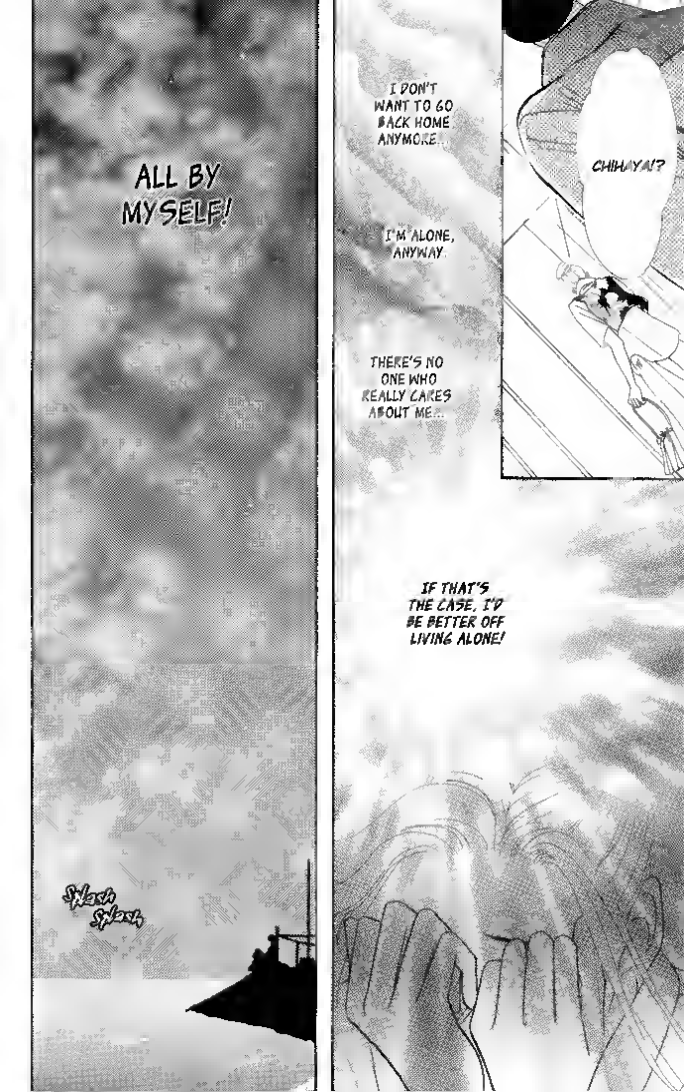
MORI-SAKI!
INJURED PLAYERS DON'T GO NEAR THE BALL!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO JOG AROUND THE FIELD?
Like telling him that not actually scoring him!
SURE, COACH...
OHH...
HE'S SO COOL!
EVEN WITHOUT CHIHAYA, I'D BE HAPPY TO STALK HIM!
NO ONE'S STALKING ANYONE HERE!
I'M ONLY WATCHING HIM PRAC-TICE
SINCE WE'RE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES, IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN TALK TO HIM.
I KNOW I KNOW
BESIDES, MORISAKI IS OUR SCHOOL'S STAR PLAYER!


LET'S GO CHEER HIM ON!
pat pat
SURE SURE, IF YOU SAY SO
MORISAKI WILL DEFINITELY GET TO PLAY!
BUT THAT INJURY WILL PROBABLY TAKE HIM OFF THE FIELD
HE DIDN'T GO TO THE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONALS, BUT HE'LL BE GOING TO THE UNDER-SEVENTEEN GAMES IN FRANCE, I BET!
AH?
I CAN'T MAKE IT TODAY
MY STEPMOTHER TOLD ME TO HAVE LUNCH WITH HER STUDENTS
LIVING WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S MOTHER
GRADUALLY DISTANCES YOU
YOUR MOTHER'S IN CHARGE NOW, ISN'T SHE?
THAT'S RIGHT, YOUR FAMILY RUNS A FLOWER ARRANGING SCHOOL
MY STEP-MOTHER

CHIHAYA!
HOTEL CENTER
I'M SORRY, BUT IF I DIDN'T SAY THAT, I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D COME.
YOU LIED TO ME!
LET ME GO!
WHY DID YOU SET ME UP WITH THE SOUTSU SCHOOL'S YOUNGEST SON!?

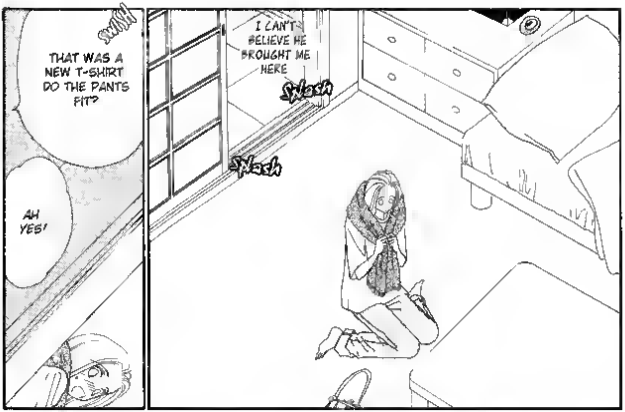

IT WAS YOUR FATHER'S LAST WISH
AS YOU KNOW EVER SINCE YOUR FATHER DIED, WE'VE LOST QUITE A FEW STUDENTS
IT'S BEEN VERY DIFFICULT TO KEEP THE SCHOOL RUNNING
I'M NOT CAPABLE ENOUGH.
I'M SO SORRY.

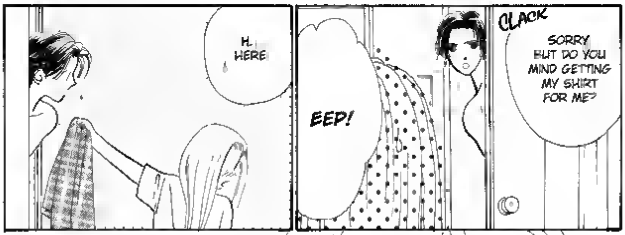
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S WORRIED ABOUT THE SHINKA SCHOOL CLOSING!
HERE YOU'RE FINALLY HEAD OF THE SCHOOL AND THIS HAPPENS!
DON'T SAY IT LIKE IT'S ALL FOR MY SAKE!
BUT YOUR FATHER HAD DECIDED WITH WHOM TO ENTRUST YOUR FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF THE SHINKA SCHOOL.
I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO GET MARRIED!
CHIHAYA!
IT'S ALL YOURS, SO JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
WITH MY FATHER AND MOTHER GONE, THE SHINKA SCHOOL ISN'T MY HOME ANYMORE EITHER!

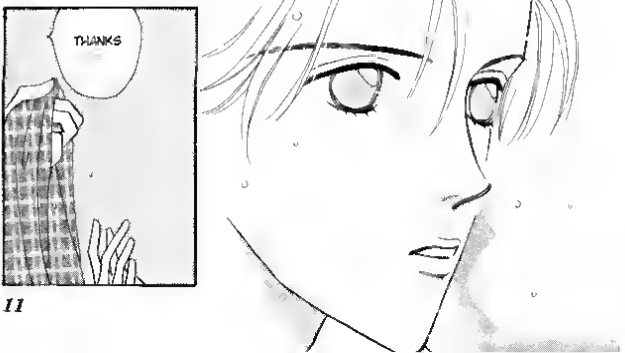

ALL BY MYSELF!
Splash Splash
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK HOME ANYMORE...
I'M ALONE, ANYWAY...
THERE'S NO ONE WHO REALLY CARES ABOUT ME...
CHIHAYA!?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'D BE BETTER OFF LIVING ALONE!

Shudder
HEY!
PAT PAT
BUT I'M DEFINITELY NOT GOING BACK!
I GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO GO TO PLACES LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
Splash
MOM...
ARE CHIHAYA FROM CLASS TWO?
AREN'T YOU...

SLIP
GRAB!
AHHH!
splash
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.
I KNEW THAT MORISAKI HAD HIS OWN APARTMENT, SINCE HIS PARENTS LIVE IN TOKYO, BUT
201
Morisaki


SWISH
THAT WAS A NEW T-SHIRT DO THE PANTS FIT?
AH YES!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE BROUGHT ME HERE
Splash
Splash

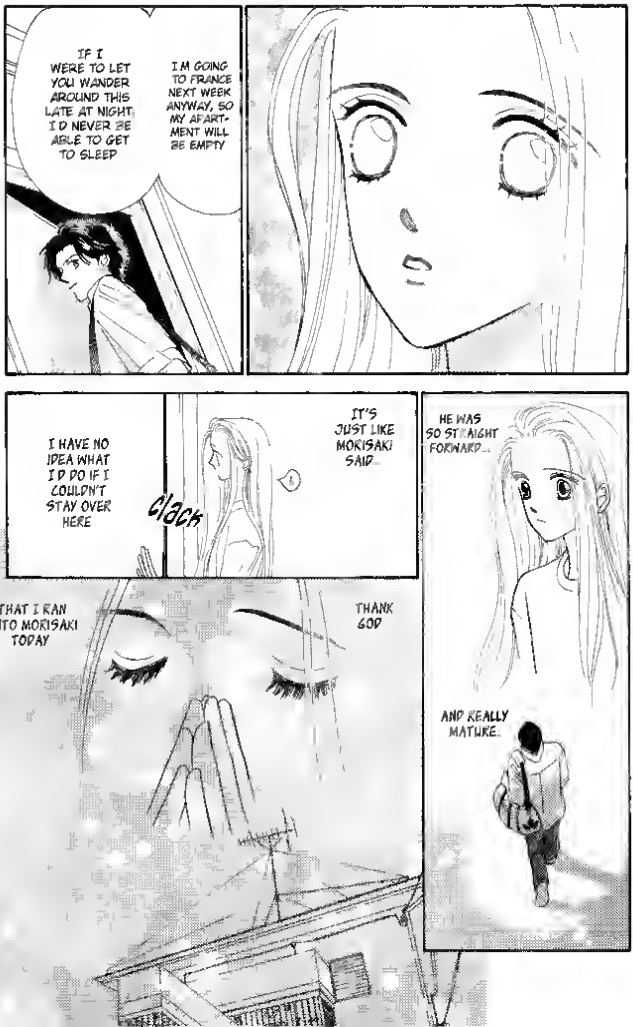

H. HERE
EEP!
CLACK
SORRY BUT DO YOU MIND GETTING MY SHIRT FOR ME?


THANKS

MOKI-SAKI'S CLOTHES
AND I JUST WENT AND TOOK A SHOWER AND BORROWED THESE CLOTHES
IT'S LIKE HE HARDLY NOTICES THE SITUATION WE'RE IN AT ALL
HE'S KIND OF FORWARD... ISN'T HE?
Even though he brought me here
I'M SORRY
MY HEART WON'T STOP BEATING WILDLY
IT'S OK
I KNEW YOU WERE PRETTY BOLD
I WASN'T REALLY THINKING WHEN I LEFT HOME, SO I DIDN'T EVEN BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES

EXCUSE ME, BUT HOW WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?
IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL. YOU'RE JUST WELL-KNOWN
HAVING A FLOWER ARRANGING SCHOOL IS PRETTY RARE
Rustle
OH REALLY?
HM?
I'M CHANGING THE SHEET
MORISAKI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
THE BED'S THE ONLY PLACE TO SLEEP HERE
SLEEP ?
DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE STAYING OVER AT MY FRIEND'S PLACE

YOU CAN'T!
I DON'T WANT TO TROUBLE YOU LIKE THAT!
AH...
THEN YOU'RE GOING BACK HOME?
YOU SHOULD ACCEPT ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET.
YOU GOT INTO A FIGHT AND LEFT RIGHT?
Clink

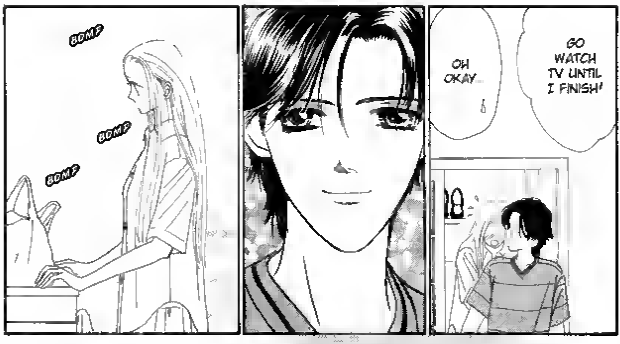

IF I WERE TO LET YOU WANDER AROUND THIS LATE AT NIGHT, I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO GET TO SLEEP
I'M GOING TO FRANCE NEXT WEEK ANYWAY, SO MY APARTMENT WILL BE EMPTY
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'D DO IF I COULDN'T STAY OVER HERE
clack
IT'S JUST LIKE MORISAKI SAID...
HE WAS SO STRAIGHT FORWARD...
AND REALLY MATURE...
THAT I RAN INTO MORISAKI TODAY
THANK GOD

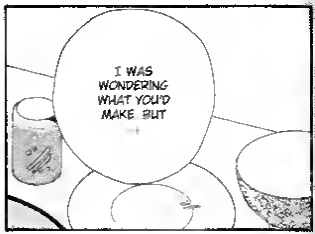
MORISAKI!
AH?
ISN'T SHE HERE FOR YOU?
AH!
YOU KNOW YOU RAN AWAY RIGHT?
WHY WOULD YOU COME TO SCHOOL?
I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR YESTERDAY SO I WENT TO MAKE YOU LUNCH
BUT THE SINK'S COMPLETELY CLOGGED UP
I'm sorry

SLAM
WHERE'S THE SINK?
MORI-SAKI?
IT'S, WELL...
IS PRACTICE ALREADY OVER?
I'M ON A DIFFE-RENT SCHEDULE.
HE CAN BARELY CATCH HIS BREATH
DID HE SPRINT ALL THE WAY BACK HERE?
HUH?
IT'LL DRAIN ONCE YOU REMOVE THE STOPPER, YOU KNOW
Splish
ABE.

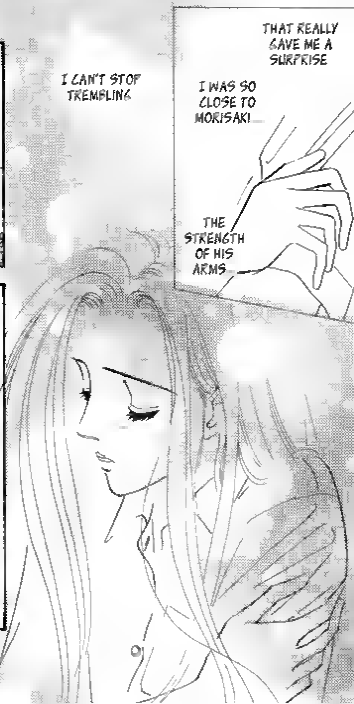
HA!
I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT WAS THERE!
I'M SORRY!
OH, STOP IT!
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE AN INNOCENT KID
WHEN HE LAUGHS LIKE THIS
HAHAHA
YOU KNOW.. PEOPLE WOULD NORMALLY CHECK THAT FIRST

I'VE ALREADY BOUGHT THE INGREDIENTS...
OH! I'LL GO MAKE DINNER
HUH?
ABE?
RUSTLE
AHH!
I'M FINE NOW!
OH GOD, WHY AM I SO CARELESS...
PUH


BOMP
BOMP
BOMP
OH OKAY...
GO WATCH TV UNTIL I FINISH!


I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU'D MAKE BUT

YOU DIDN'T THINK I COULD!?
Though I can understand.
YOU CAN REALLY COOK, HUH?


I CAN'T STOP TREMBLING
THAT REALLY GAVE ME A SURPRISE
I WAS SO CLOSE TO MORISAKI...
THE STRENGTH OF HIS ARMS...

IT'S REALLY DELICIOUS!
SORRY!
SO YOU AND YOUR STEPMOTHER HAD A FALLING OUT?
clink
MY DAD AND I LIVED ALONE FOR A LONG TIME,
SO I KEPT HOUSE
I GUESS YOU COULD HAVE CALLED IT AN INFORMAL MARRIAGE
AT FIRST I DIDN'T REALLY THINK ABOUT IT...
WE ACTUALLY STARTED LIVING TOGETHER 3 YEARS AGO.
WELL, I CALL HER YUZUKO
MY STEP-MO-THER ...

IT FELT LIKE IT WAS ONE BIG RUSH BEFORE MY DAD DIED...
AND THAT DIDN'T SIT WELL WITH ME.
THEN DAD FELL SICK, AND WHEN WE KNEW HIS TIME WAS RUNNING OUT
THEY SUDDENLY CEMENTED IT
HOW CHILDISH
BUT SINCE HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT LEAVING YOU ALL ALONE, THEY MADE SURE YOU'D HAVE A NEW MOTHER.
THEY WERE HAPPY JUST BEING TOGETHER.
WEREN'T THEY IN LOVE?
HUH?

IT WAS ALL FOR ME?
ISN'T THAT SO?
I WANT TO KEEP THE SHINKA SCHOOL GOING BUT STILL...
I'D NEVER MARRY SOMEONE I DON'T LOVE!
AH...
BUT EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE
I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY
I COULD GET PREGNANT, I GUESS
HMMPH
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

Ow!
ONE WHO DOESN'T THINK TWICE ABOUT ENTERING A MAN'S ROOM
I MEAN, NO ONE WOULD MARRY A GIRL LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
GAH, WHAT DID I JUST SAY!?
SORRY...
clack
YOU WANT TO GO FOR IT?
SU-RE

I CAN'T MOVE
AND I'M FEELING DIZZY
WHAT IS THIS?
!
NO...
CLICK

I DON'T WANT THIS!
MORISAKI ISN'T DOING THIS BECAUSE HE LIKES ME!
UH...
ABE...
NO!
STOP!
ABE?!
BUT I
COME ON, STAND UP
I COULDN'T DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT
DUMMY, I WAS ONLY JOKING

I'VE GOTTEN TO SEE SO MUCH OF YOU
WAIT!
IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE A CRUSH ON YOU
AND NOW, I'VE
ABE!
I WISH I'D NEVER GONE TO YOUR APARTMENT

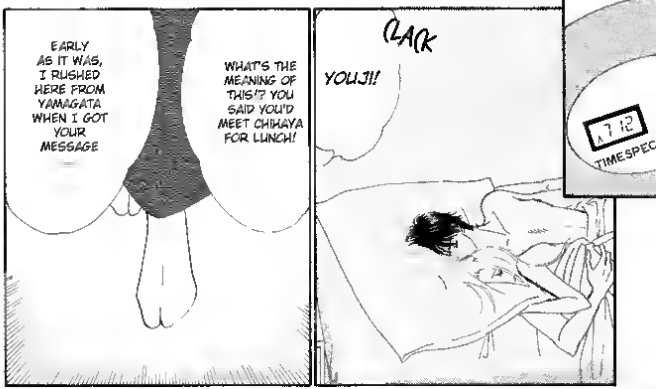
FALLEN FOR YOU...
WHEN YOU STARTED WATCHING US PRACTICE EVERY DAY—
I FLATTERED MYSELF BY THINKING THAT YOU WERE REALLY WATCHING ME.
IT WAS REALLY ME WHO'D BEEN WAITING ALL ALONG
Smile

I LOVE YOU!
ぎゅっ

I LOVE YOU TOO.
I can
GRIP

I WANT TO BE WITH YOU FOREVER.
SO LONG AS I HAVE YOU MORISAKI, I DON'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE
NOT MY HOME,
OR ANYTHING ELSE.
GET SOME SLEEP
CHIHAYA...

Creak
TIMESPEC


EARLY AS IT WAS, I RUSHED HERE FROM YAMAGATA WHEN I GOT YOUR MESSAGE
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!? YOU SAID YOU'D MEET CHIHAYA FOR LUNCH!
CLACK
YOUJI!
7:12
TIMESPEC

YUZUKO
YOU'RE BOTH ...

COULD YOU PLEASE WAIT FOR US TO GET DRESSED.
MOTHER?
MOTHER ...?
YOUJI WAS THE SON I LEFT WITH MY EX-HUSBAND WHEN WE SEPARATED 10 YEARS AGO.
WE STILL MEET UP EVERY NOW AND THEN, THOUGH.
SINCE YOU WERE IN THE SAME SCHOOL AND HE KNEW WHO YOU WERE
I ASKED HIM TO HELP ME LOOK FOR YOU AFTER YOU RAN OUT OF THE HOTEL.
AND I WENT BACK TO MY PARENT'S PLACE IN YAMAGATA

THEN IT WASN'T A COINCIDENCE THAT MORISAKI FOUND ME AND TOOK ME IN.
SO...
SO WHY DID HE MAKE LOVE TO ME?
MOM.
I REALLY WANT TO BE WITH CHIHAYA.
YOUJI
BUT I NEVER EXPECTED TO FIND THE BOTH OF YOU LIKE THIS...
BDMP
BDMP
THEY'RE A FAMILY
YUZUKO AND MORISAKI
BDMP

I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
I WANTED TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH BEFORE SHE CAME
CHIHAYA!
I DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE YOU UP!
WHY DID YOU...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SHE'D ASKED FOR YOUR HELP!?
I KNEW YOU'D BE UPSET IF YOU KNEW ABOUT HER...

IF WE BOTH FELT THE SAME, NOTHING THAT HAPPENS SHOULD MATTER.
SO I WANTED SOME TIME WITH YOU BEFORE YOU KNEW WHO MY MOTHER WAS.
adidas
YOU WERE ... GOING TO SEND ME HOME ALL ALONG.
FACE THE FACTS!
WE WON'T BE TOGETHER! HOW CAN I BELIEVE YOU!?
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT JUST SAYING IT?
I DON'T KNOW!
CHI-HA-YA!

I KNOW
SUMMER VACATION WON'T LAST FO-REVER!
IF YOU KEEP RUNNING AWAY
CAN WE REALLY BE TOGETHER!?
I KNOW YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT
DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO
IF I GO HOME,
I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO GO AGAINST WHAT MY FATHER HAD WANTED
I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN TRUST YOU NOW, MORISAKI

NO MATTER WHAT CHANGES
THAT FACT REMAINS
EVEN SO, I HELD YOU IN MY ARMS!
I WON'T LOSE HOPE...

DASH
THE NEXT WEEK, MORISAKI LEFT FOR THE TOURNAMENT IN FRANCE.
AND I—

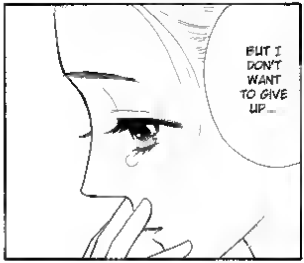
I WAS THE ONE WHO SHOULDN'T HAVE PUSHED SO HARD...
I'M SORRY, AFTER YOU BROUGHT ME THERE FOR IT...
CHIRP
CHIRP
IT TRULY IS DIFFICULT...
TO MOVE AN IMMOVABLE OBJECT.
YUZUKO?
TV ON THIS HOUR?
Satoshi listings
AH! THAT'S RIGHT. TV!
LOOK AT THE TIME
Beep
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT ANYMORE, CHIHAYA.
TURNING DOWN THE ENGAGEMENT CAUSED YOU TROUBLE.

MORISAKI STOLE THE BALL!
15
15
MORISAKI JUST TOOK THE FIELD FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE GAME
THOUGH JAPAN IS DOWN 0 TO 5
HE ISN'T LETTING THAT GET HIM DOWN!
15
MORI-SAKI?
HE WAS REFERRING TO YOU, WASN'T HE?
HE TOLD ME THAT HE UNDERSTOOD HOW I FELT, SINCE HE WAS ALSO IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE
YOUJI WAS THE FIRST PERSON WHO SUPPORTED MY DECISION TO REMARRY

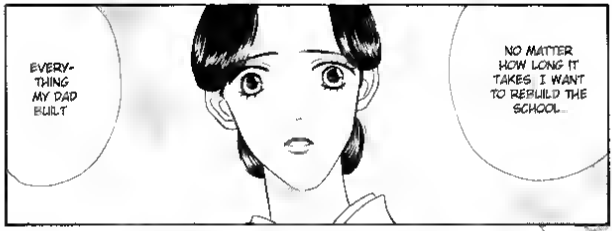
LOOK ALL THE PLAYERS ARE RUNNING AFTER MORISAKI!
YES! IF HE CAN REACH THE GOAL, HE'S GOT IT!
HE MANAGED TO DODGE BUT LOST PRECIOUS TIME!
OH!
MORISAKI ...!
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE 11 OTHER PLAYERS ARE PICKING UP MORISAKI'S DETERMINATION!
I WON'T LOSE!

I—
GOAL!
WON'T GIVE UP HOPE!
Piii
AND THE GAME IS OVER!
Pi

IT'S AS THOUGH HE'S SAYING THIS ISN'T THE END...
WHAT A FIGHT, MORISAKI!
HE DOESN'T SEEM HAPPY THOUGH...


BUT I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP...

CHI-HAYA...!
YUZUKO, THE SHINKA SCHOOL MAY BE DONE FOR


EVERY-THING MY DAD BUILT
NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES, I WANT TO REBUILD THE SCHOOL...

MOTHER?

WILL YOU HELP ME REBUILD IT

I CAN TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR FATHER'S PLACE.
!
CLICK
IT'S OK SECOND SEMESTER IS STARTING SOON, ANYWAY.
THAT'S TRUE THANKS FOR THE GREAT WORK
Welcome Back Chikage

I KNEW IT THEN.
THERE WITHIN THE WAVES, YOUR ARMS WERE MORE CLUMSY THAN WHEN YOU'D TOUCHED ME IN JEST
AND YOUR LIPS WERE TREMBLING EVER SO SLIGHTLY
RIGHT THEN, I KNEW THAT NO MATTER WHAT, I WANTED TO BE WITH YOU

SUMMER
HAS ENDED
BUT I
WON'T RUN
AWAY
ANYMORE

SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY CAUGHT ME.
THE END <Summer Escapade>
1995 BETSUCOMI JULY ISSUE

こんにちは。　下Cの描きおろ 負が少ないと不評の浜松森津子です。(;
今回はまた ひときわ少ない。　というわけで 掲載作品について
思いつくまま ガタガタいっちゃいましょう。

逃げる男

この頃は 猫が描きたくて 描きたくて。　舞台にしたのは 善行駅です。
なんに「善行駅前って 立喰いソバしかないな」と言われ トキビキしながら
行ってみたら しんでもない。　ひろげてましたよ。　ショックでした。　また行きたいなーと
思っているので 地元の方 いいかたありましたら 教えて下さい。

きっとね！

今回の下Cは スポーツ特集なんですよね。　今頃ですが
これを描いた時の担当さんが 体育会系で　スポーツの話なんかで
盛り上がりました。　そういえば 村ちゃん 連れて行ってくれる約束 まだ果たして
もらってないぞー！　一回 2人と行ったけど　あれ マジに体力いります。

エンジェル タッチ

第4会社のバトミントン部に入っていて「バトもかっこいいかな」と思って
いろいろ調べました。　あっ それより この作品には ホントに珍しく
恋愛が出てこない！　今までにも1・2本しか 描いてないんじゃないかなあ。
スポーツ物って大好き。　たまには こういうのも いいですよね！

始まりのGOAL

取材が好きな私ですから　この時も 高校生の下宿を 観察に行きました。
中学までと 朝ドレを10秒で食べていた私には 別世界！！　なんで あんなに早く
足が回転するんだぁ〜〜！（問題外）　スポーツ物は いくつか描いたけど
水泳と並んで 体の美しさや 際立つスポーツだと思いました。　真近で見ると
圧倒されるよ！

今回の裏表紙は スポーツ物らしい（?!）ビビッドな絵にしたくて
こうなりました。　タイプはどの男のまかなー？　ちなみに私は 塩司クンかなー（それにないて）が
最後になっちゃいましたが　この単行本を買って下さった方、
読んでくださった方　本当に ありがとうございます。　また 次の下Cでお会いできることを 祈って

Atsuko

'88 3 /

FLOWER COMICS

逃げる夏

なっちゃんのロマンティック ラブ 3

浜口奈津子

小学館 FC 0533

ISBN4-09-136533-7

C9979 ¥388E

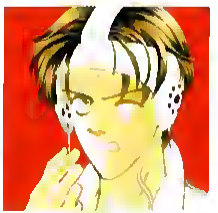
9784091365330

1929979003883

定価407円 本体388円

雑誌 46075－33 小学館

TRACK&FIELD


RUGBY

SOCCER

BADMINTON

別コミ フラワーコミックス

●表題作紹介

★父が華道の家元だった千早。その父が亡くなってから、義理の母と2人で暮らしています。ある日、彼女は父親の遺言だからと、強引に見合いをさせられます。義母とうまくいっていなかった千早は、怒って家出。身を寄せるあてもない彼女は、以前から憧れていた森崎にばったり会い、彼の部屋にころがりこみ…。

●収録作品／逃げる夏　きっとね！／エンジェルタッチ　始まりのGOAL

NIGERU NATSU

Story 2:

Surely

Scanned: Himmelsfalter
Translated: kiraizumi
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Storm in Heaven
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SURELY!

SHUU-SAN, CONGRATS!
COACH!
SHUU-SAN...
SEIKO-SAN, THE RECEPTION STARTS SOON
SORRY I'LL BE BACK SOON
SLIP

GR
AB
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
IT'S MY OLDER BROTHER'S WEDDING
IS HIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND GOING TO LEAVE HALFWAY?
ASAYA
I I'M NOT FEELING VERY WELL
WHAT'S THAT RING?
LET ME SEE. THERE'S A NAME ENGRAVED ON IT
NO!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? LET ME SEE
NO!

"SHUU."
I SAW IT. MY EYESIGHT'S PERFECT.
EMPORIO ARMANI
LET'S GO.
ASAYA, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
IT WAS ONE-SIDED. PLEASE DON'T SAY A WORD TO SHUU-SAN OR ANYONE ELSE.

THIS RING WAS A GIFT FROM SHUU-SAN IN CELEBRATION OF MY COLLEGE ENTRANCE.
I ENGRAVED HIS NAME MYSELF
I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO SUPPRESS MY FEELINGS AFTER THE CEREMONY,
BUT IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE
NO, ASAYA, I CAN'T!
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE LEAVING?
GR
AB
YOU'RE THE MANAGER OF THE RUGBY TEAM.
I'M ONE OF THE PLAYERS
田園家
結婚披露宴会場
AND THAT'S THE COACH'S WEDDING
WHEN HE GAVE YOU THAT RING

THEY WERE ALREADY IN LOVE.
SLAP
YOU JERK!
STUPID ASAYA!
AND HE'S YOUNGER THAN ME TOO!
IT'S FINE!
SEIKO, ARE YOU GOING TO EAT ALL THAT?
MUNCH!

I ALREADY KNEW THAT I HAD TO GIVE UP
EVEN IF YOU HADN'T SAID THAT
SHUU-SAN IS SO LUCKY. WHILE HE'S ON HIS HONEYMOON,
WE'RE GOING THROUGH HELL PRACTICING FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
BDMP
PLEASE PACK UP!
THAT'LL BE ALL FOR TODAY!
I'M STILL VERY SENSITIVE OVER SHUU-SAN'S NAME

A, AGAYA?!
AHH?
SHOck
clack
I WAS SLEEPING...
YOU FRESHMAN!
YOU'RE GOING TO GET KICKED OUT OF ROTATION, YOU KNOW!
WHERE WERE YOU DURING THE END OF TRAINING JUST NOW?!
DON'T WORRY! WE'LL DEFINITELY CLEAR THE FIRST GAME AT HANAZONO IN THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT

IT WAS THE WINTER OF SHUU-SAN'S 3RD YEAR IN SENIOR HIGH,
AND THE RUGBY TEAM'S FIRST PLAYOFFS AT HANAZONO.
I'LL REMEMBER THAT PROMISE
SEI-CHAN YOU HAVE TO COME AGAIN
I CRIED HORRIBLY
DESPITE EVERYONE'S SUPPORT, WE WERE DEFEATED IN THE FIRST ROUND.
AH, YES!
SMACK
WE'VE MANAGED TO ENTER THE CHAMPION-SHIPS
COME AGAIN!
AND I'LL RETURN AS THE COACH
YOU AND ASAYA WILL ATTEND MY HIGH SCHOOL
THEN WE'LL PLAY RUGBY TOGETHER

IT'S USUALLY AROUND HERE.
THERE'S SOMEPLACE I WANT TO STOP BY
KEEP ME COMPANY
WHY?!
THE PARK?
THIS SHOULD DO
THANKS
SEIKO, WHAT'S YOUR RING SIZE?
?
AH! FOUND IT!

GIVE ME THE ONE MY BROTHER GAVE YOU.
NO, ASAYA ...
PLEASE DON'T ...!
ASAYA?!
SWISH
PLOP
IDIOT!

FALLING FOR HIM WAS YOUR MISTAKE.
YOU IDIOT, WHY!?
FORGET ABOUT HIM!
SWISH
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
YOU'RE SO CRUEL!
IT DOES!
MAKE DO WITH THIS ONE

WHAT? YOU'RE JUST
I LOVE YOU
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, SEIKO.
I WANT YOU TO FORGET ABOUT MY BROTHER.
WAIT!

WILL YOU BE MY GIRL-FRIEND?
I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT, IN HIS PLACE
EVEN WIN AT HANA-ZONO
ANYWAY, ISN'T THIS THE SAME FACE YOU FELL FOR?
EVEN IF YOU LOOK ALIKE YOU'LL NEVER BE BETTER THAN SHUU-SAN!
I LOVE YOU
PLOP
!
SWISH

IT'S SO SUDDEN
WHAT WAS HE SAYING?
BREAK TIME!

MANAGER, WATER!
YES, COMING!
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OVER WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY?
IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER HERE?
IF I DON'T COME AFTER YOU YOU'LL AVOID ME FOREVER RIGHT?
I'M SERIOUS

THwack
OW!
HE BELIEVES SERIOUSLY IN THE MYSTERY OF ISONO...
AH, NOTHING...
WHAT ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT?
DID IT REALLY HURT THAT BAD?
UM...
GRAB
!
LICK

MY HEART'S BEATING SO FAST
I HOPE YOU GO DOWN!
I HATE THIS! MESSING WITH MY FEELINGS_
THAT LITTLE BRAT!
DAMMIT!
KNOWING MY HEART SO WELL_

BAM
OUCH!
!
ARE THEY TARGETING ASAYA IN THEIR ROUGH PLAY?
WHAT?
EVEN IF RUGBY'S A COMPETATIVE SPORT
THAT'S NOT RIGHT—
HEY! STOP! STOP!

MANAGER!
IT'S SERIOUS!
COMING!
!!
ASAYA, ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
Infirmary
EEK, YOU'RE SO DIRTY-MINDED!
CUT IT OUT!!
DO YOU WANT IT RIPPED?
PULL
WERE YOU THAT WORRIED ABOUT ME?
JUST REMOVE YOUR JERSEY!
IDIOT!
YOU WERE BASHED BY NOGUCHI AND THE SENIORS
YOU WERE WATCHING. HUH?

WAIT
WHAT'S ALL THIS?
BACK THEN
OW!
WAIT, WHEN YOU WERE FLAT ON THE GROUND IN THE CLUB ROOM...
DON'T TELL ME...
ASAYA!
IT'S OK... MY BONES ARE ALL INTACT
A MERE FRESHMAN, THE COACH'S BROTHER, ON THE ACTIVE ROSTER...
THE SENIORS WHO ARE ON THE BENCH WON'T TAKE IT LYING DOWN

EVEN SO I STILL WANTED TO BE ON THE ROSTER
I KNEW IT'D TURN OUT THIS WAY
ENOUGH!
EVEN SO...
IF I WEREN'T...
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TAKE YOU TO HANAZONO!
THANK YOU...

!
YANK
STOP TREATING ME LIKE A KID!
I'M GLAD YOU REMEMBERED THE PROMISE
BUT PLEASE DON'T PUSH YOURSELF
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE PROMISE!
LOOK AT ME!
I'LL DEFINITELY SURPASS MY BROTHER!
LET ME GO!
I DON'T SEE ANYONE YOUNGER THAN ME AS A MAN!
BON

WOBBLE

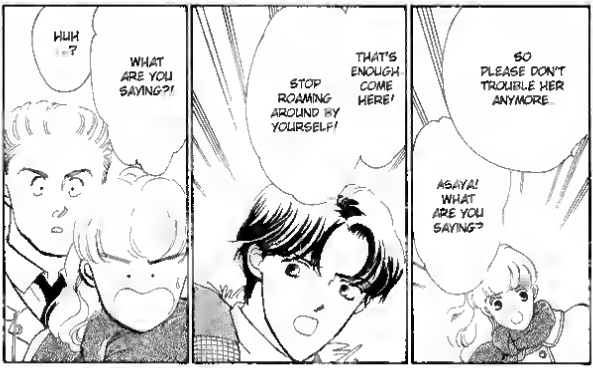
SHUU-SAN WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
CLATTER
SLAM
PUFF
PUFF
GRIP
TAP
TAP
TAP

AHH, SEIKO-SAN
PRACTICE HAS ALREADY ENDED...
I DON'T SEE ASAYA-KUN'S BAG
DID YOU TAKE IT FOR HIM?
HUH? NO...
NOGUCHI AND THE OTHERS
LEFT?

ASAYA'S BAG...!
I KNEW IT!
FOUND THEM!
NOGUCHI-SAN!
HE— HEY! MANAGER
!
DRAG
I'LL RETURN IT TO HIM
BUT I COULDN'T HELP USING IT AS A BALL.
I WAS GOING TO TAKE IT TO ASAYA.
UMBRO
UMBRO

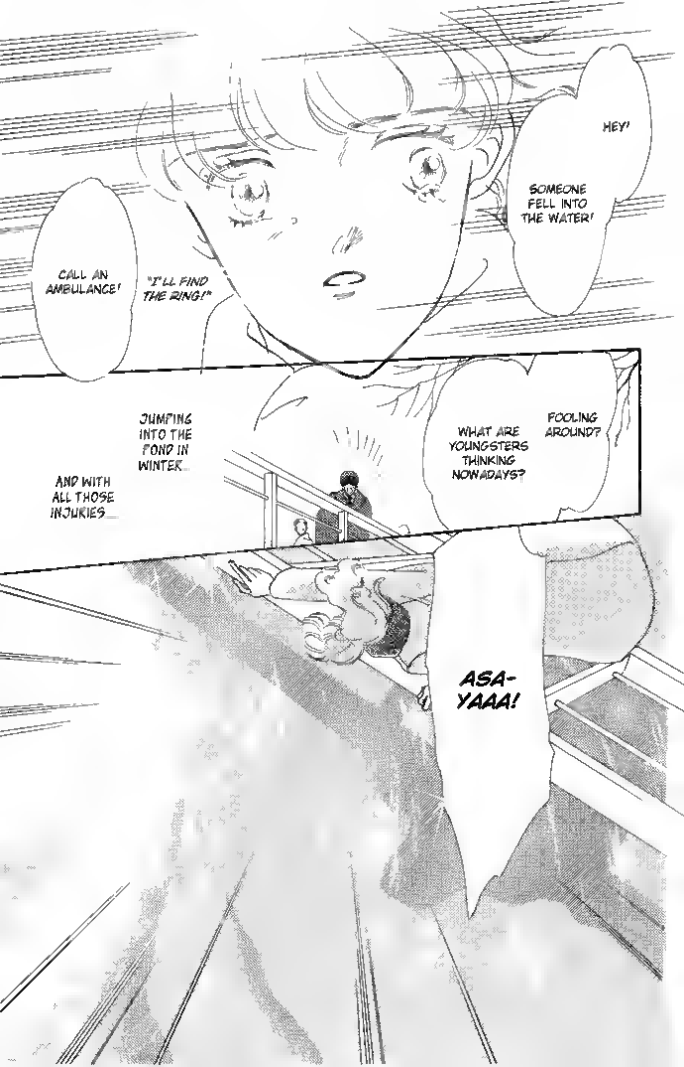
?!
YANK
OF COURSE NOT!
YOU'RE OLDER, TOO LOOKS LIKE YOU BENEFITED
HEH ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH ASAYA?
THUD!
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ASAYA!
YOU'RE ALL SUCH COWARDS!
STOP IT!
FOR A FRESHMAN LIKE HIM...
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE FOR US SENIORS AT HANAZONO?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

ASAYA...
I'LL LEAVE THE CLUB


HUH...?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
STOP ROAMING AROUND BY YOURSELF!
THAT'S ENOUGH. COME HERE!
SO PLEASE DON'T TROUBLE HER ANYMORE...
ASAYA! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

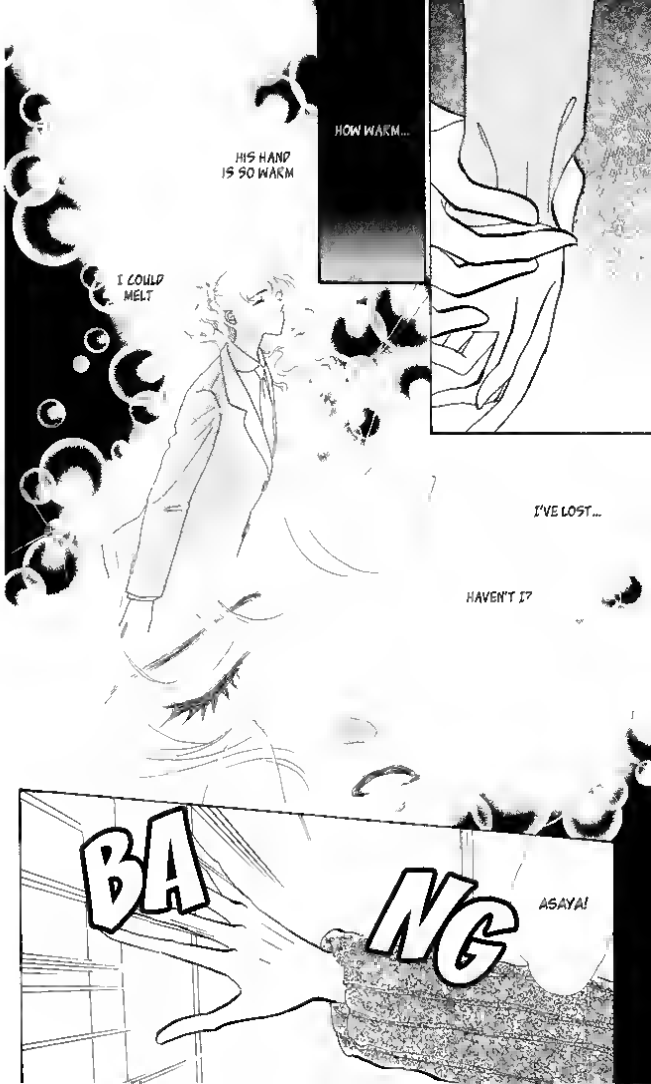
SLAM
BI
TE
SEIKO!
ASAYA WON'T QUIT!
YOU'D QUIT FOR HER?
THAT'S REALLY SOME-THING
RUN FOR IT!
WE'LL BE DISQUALIFIED IF WE'RE CAUGHT!
STOMP
STOMP
YOU GUYS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
GAH, NOGUCHI, TROUBLE!
ASAYA!
HEY!

WE WEREN'T FIGHTING!
WE WERE ONLY FOOLING AROUND!
IF WE CAN'T COMPETE IN THE TOURNAMENT
SEIKO WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME
ASAYA?!
I'LL FIND THE RING
ASAYA?!
*SFX SPLASH


HEY!
SOMEONE FELL INTO THE WATER!
"I'LL FIND THE RING!"
CALL AN AMBULANCE!
FOOLING AROUND?
WHAT ARE YOUNGSTERS THINKING NOWADAYS?
JUMPING INTO THE POND IN WINTER...
AND WITH ALL THOSE INJURIES...
ASA-YAAA!

YOU AVOIDED GETTING PNEUMONIA. YOU REALLY ARE A TOUGH RUGBY PLAYER
YOU CAME?
ASAYA!

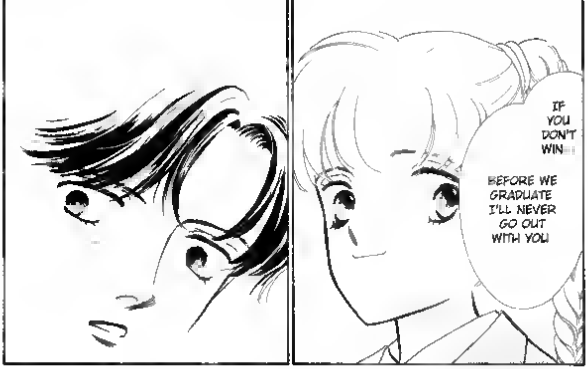
I...
I'LL GO CALL IN YOUR FAMILY.
I...
COULDN'T FIND THE RING.
IT WAS TOO DARK TO DO ANY-THING.
SORRY.
I'LL FIND IT NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES ME


HOW WARM...
HIS HAND IS SO WARM
I COULD MELT
I'VE LOST...
HAVEN'T I?
BA
NG
ASAYA!

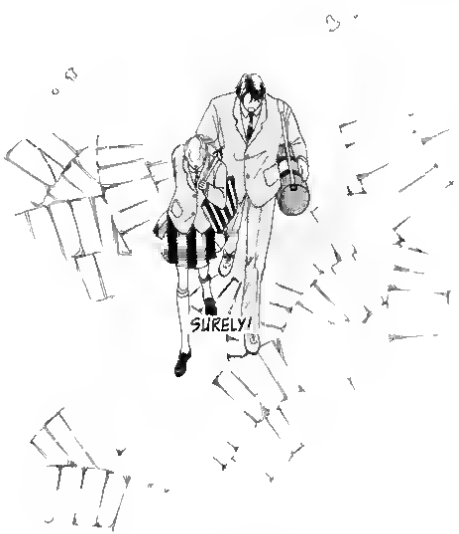
YOU WENT SWIMMING IN THIS WEATHER?
ARGH! BRO!
SHUU-SAN!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR HONEY-MOON?
WE HAD TO CANCEL IT
HER MORNING SICKNESS GOT WORSE
THOUGH SHE'S ONLY 3 MONTHS ALONG
ANYWAY, SOUVENIRS...
Here.
BRO, YOU DIDN'T!
THREE MONTHS?
ASAYA!
WHAT?!
SHUT UP, YOU LECHER!

Smile
THANK YOU
CONGRATULATIONS, SHUU-SAN
A NEW RING IS BETTER, HUH?
SEIKO!
AND GO DOWNSTAIRS FOR SOME TEA
LET'S LEAVE THAT FOOL BEHIND
RUSTLE

MY CHEST NO LONGER HURTS
EVEN IF SHUU-SAN PUTS HIS HAND ON MY SHOULDER,
IN THE END, ASAYA HAD TOO MANY INJURIES
AT HANAZONO DESPITE THE SUPPORT OF THE AUDIENCE
WE LOST IN THE FIRST ROUND
YEAH, YOU'D BETTER!
DAMN IT! WE'LL MAKE IT NEXT YEAR FOR SURE!



SO YOU'LL DO IT—



"THE END" "SURELY"
1994 DELUXE BETSUCOMI JANUARY ISSUE

NIGERU NATSU

Story 3:

Angel Touch

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ANGEL
TOUCH

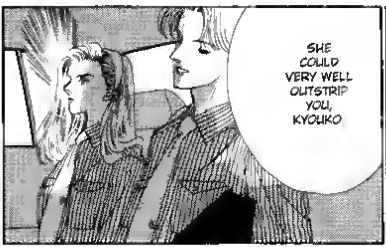
RUMBLE
KEI-CHAN, QUICK, CRAWL THROUGH!
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
SIS!
THAT KID'S GOING TO GET HIT!
I'LL MAKE IT— I'LL MAKE IT!
DEFINITELY!!
YUE, YOU IDIOT! YOU'RE NOT GONNA MAKE IT!
AHHH!

whoosh
HEY! GET OUT OF THE WAY!
huff...
I MADE IT.
waaaa!!!
SIS!
HIC!

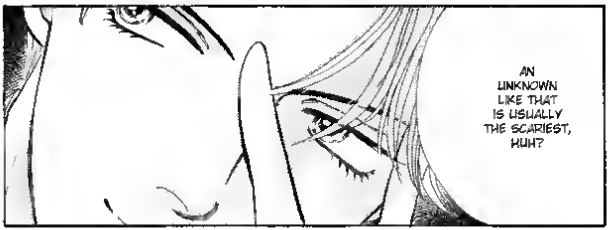
THAT HURTS!
KYOUKO-SENPAI!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
YOU JUST TRAMPLED ON MY HAND...
I'M SORRY!
I'M A FRESHMAN IN THE BADMINTON CLUB. SHINAGAWA YUE
TANAKA! KYOUKO-SENPAI.
SHE'S THE GENIUS WHO BECAME ONE OF THE TOP PLAYERS IN THE WORLD AT THE AGE OF 16
EXCUSE ME IS YOUR HAND OKAY ?
MY ADMIRATION FOR HER LED ME INTO THE CLUB

YOU BROKE IT!
SETSU
YOU AREN'T REALLY HURT THAT BAD, ARE YOU, SIS?
DON'T WORRY! I'LL TAKE KYOUKO TO THE HOSPITAL
YUIE!

I HURT KYOUKO-SENPAI.
EVEN THE YOUNGER BROTHER, SETSU, HAS BEEN A CHAMPION SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WOW, THE TANUKAI SIBLINGS ARE SUCH A FORMIDABLE PAIR


SHE COULD VERY WELL OUTSTRIP YOU, KYOUKO

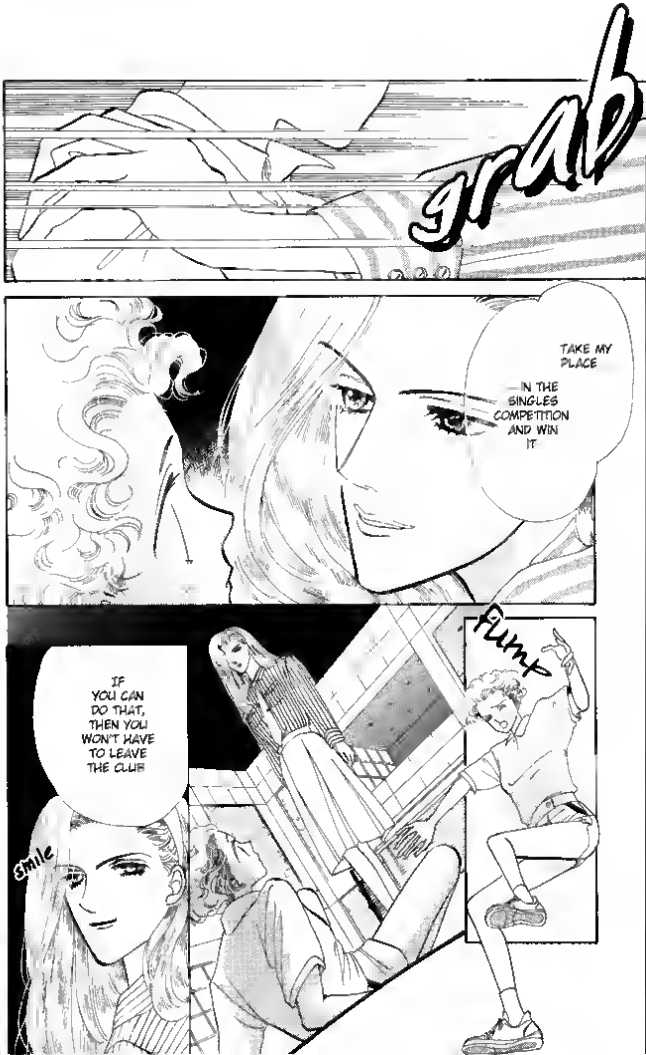
THAT GIRL REALLY MADE A DASH FOR IT.


AN UNKNOWN LIKE THAT IS USUALLY THE SCARIEST, HUH?

Chatter...
AS I WAS SAYING, KYOUKO INJURED HER FINGERS,
SO THERE'LL BE A SWITCH IN THE ACTIVE PLAYERS...
YUE...
ARE YOU JOKING? HOW CAN OUR STAR PLAYER BE HURT?
WHAT WILL WE DO AT THE SCHOOL COMPETI-TIONS!?

WHAT NOW, KYOUKO-SEMPAI...!
SHINAGAWA, TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS!
LEAVE THE CLUB IMMEDIATELY!
ME LEAVING THE CLUB WOULDN'T MAKE HER BETTER.
YUIE!
NO... I WON'T!

SO PLEASE LET ME DO WHATEVER I CAN IN HER PLACE!
I'LL DO ANYTHING AT ALL!
IS SHE JOKING?
IN HER PLACE?
IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY?
HOLD ON.
KYOU-KO!
YOU JUST STARTED A FEW MONTHS AGO
WHAT CAN A NEWBIE LIKE YOU DO?
Daha


grab
TAKE MY PLACE
—IN THE SINGLES COMPETITION AND WIN IT
IF YOU CAN DO THAT, THEN YOU WON'T HAVE TO LEAVE THE CLUB
smile
jump

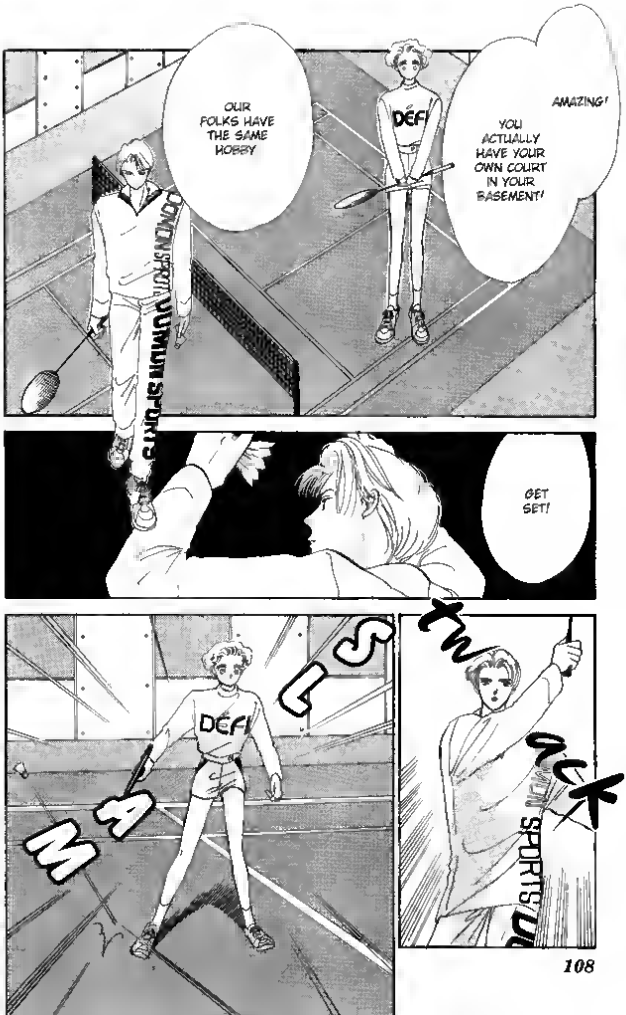
...IN KYOUKO-SENPAI'S PLACE?
WIN THE COMPETITION...
ME?!
OKAY!
I'LL BE TAKING SOME TIME OFF
SEE YA.
KYOUKO!
...A FRESHMAN LIKE ME CAN WIN WITHOUT YOUR HELP!
EH! BUT THERE'S NO WAY...
HA! WHY WOULD I DO THAT?
EH? CAN I COACH YOU?
Sorry
I ALSO REFUSE
SEN-PAI...
Women's Badminton Club
OH, NO!

BYE!
SETSU, WE'RE LOCKING UP THE CLUB!
OH NO, WHAT NOW...?
MUMBLE
SETSU-KUN!
YOU'RE FROM THIS MORNING
PLEASE!

MAKE ME AS STRONG AS KYOUKO-SENPAI!
I KNOW I'M ASKING FOR TOO MUCH,
BUT THERE'S REALLY NO ONE ELSE I CAN TURN TO!
EH...?
PLEASE DON'T REFUSE ME!
I HAVE TO WIN NO MATTER WHAT!
I HEARD ABOUT THE FUSS IN THE GIRL'S CLUB.
YOU WANT MY HELP?
AH...
I'LL DO IT.

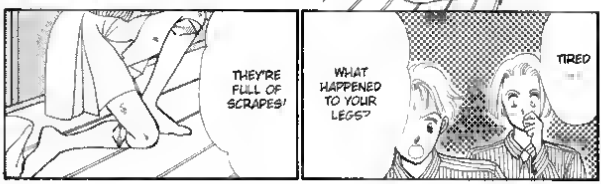
IN EXCHANGE FOR A KISS.
Ah, Ah, Ah!
turn
OH, REALLY?
YOU CAN'T...
IF IT'LL MAKE ME STRONGER, THIS ISN'T MUCH...
TRAIN ME IN EXCHANGE FOR A KISS.
FINE...
THIS IS NOTHING

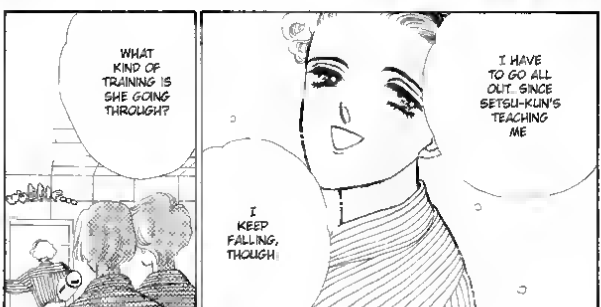
SETSU-KUN!
DON'T FORCE YOUR-SELF.
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN KISSED BEFORE, HAVE YOU?
I WAS ONLY JOKING, SILLY!
!
I'M NOT SO BAD THAT I'D MAKE SOMEONE SELL THEIR FIRST KISS.
LET'S GO!


AMAZING!
YOU ACTUALLY HAVE YOUR OWN COURT IN YOUR BASEMENT!
OUR FOLKS HAVE THE SAME HOBBY
DEF
DUMAN SPORTS
GET SET!
SLAM
twack
DUMAN SPORTS

THAT WAS A SERVE?!
QUIT SPACING OUT! HIT IT!
ONLY 2 THINGS MATTER IN BADMINTON
SLAM
DÉF!
HITTING IT,
AND NOT LETTING THEM HIT IT

SORRY...
I JUST GOT TIRED
YUE!?
HAHH.....


THEY'RE FULL OF SCRAPES!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LEGS?
TIRED


WHAT KIND OF TRAINING IS SHE GOING THROUGH?
I KEEP FALLING, THOUGH
I HAVE TO GO ALL OUT SINCE SETSU-KUN'S TEACHING ME

PANG!
IF YOU CAN'T HIT IT BACK, YOU WON'T GET ANY POINTS!
PANG!
GEEZ, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I HIT IT BACK, YOU ALWAYS RETURN IT!
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S REALLY EASY TO READ YOUR FORM.

9 SECONDS...?
WHAT'S YOUR TIME ON A 50 METER SPRINT?
100 PERCENT! I CAN READ YOUR EVERY MOVE
THEN WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME...?
THAT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE
HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO SAVE THEM?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU RAN
MIKOTO
WITH THAT TIMING, TWO PEOPLE WOULD HAVE DIED AT THOSE TRACKS
YOU HAD FAITH THAT YOU'D MAKE IT, RIGHT?

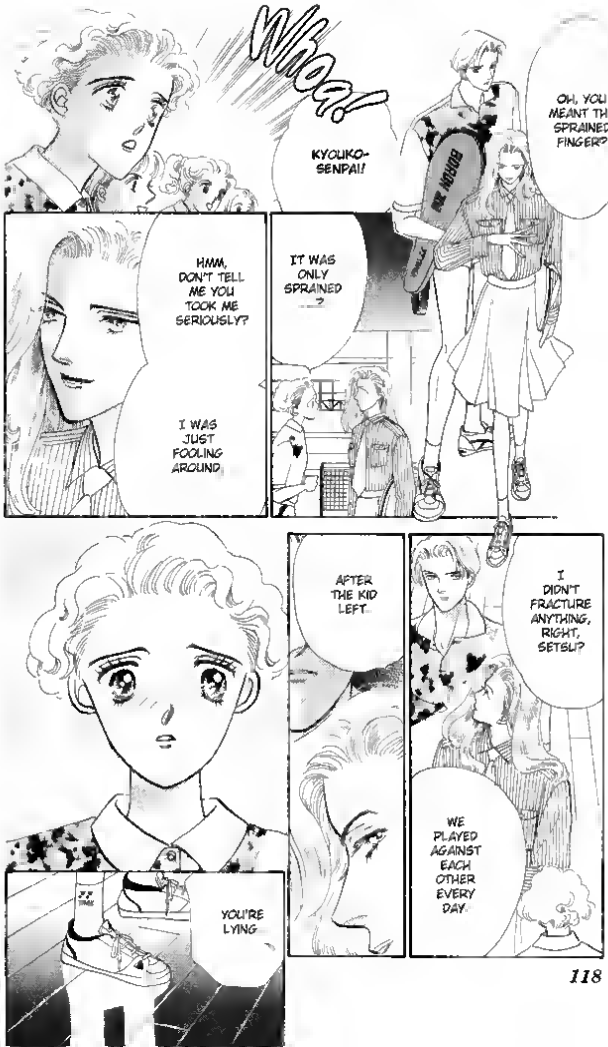
MY CHANCE.
WORRIES
LET'S GO!
WILL YOU STAND?
THERE'S A CHANCE FOR ME TO BEAT YOU, SETSU!
DO YOU STILL BELIEVE IN YOURSELF?
JUST HIT IT!
HIT IT!
AS LONG AS I DON'T GIVE UP, MY CHANCE WILL COME!
SETSU ISN'T A WALL!

I'LL DEFINITELY GET IT PAST YOU, SETSU!
I CAN DO IT,
I CAN DO IT!
YUE!
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU WIN!
WHOA, YOU DID IT!
I WASN'T GOING EASY ON YOU, EITHER!

OH NO, DON'T CRY!
DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG!?
SETSU
AT FIRST I THOUGHT I'D NEVER GET THE SHUTTLECOCK PAST YOU
I'M JUST SO HAPPY!
I'M SO GLAD I STARTED PLAYING BADMINTON!
AMAZING, SETSU!
BUT I DID IT WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS!
I DID IT!

YUE?
YU...
YOUR FATHER WILL GIVE HER A LIFT HOME.
YOUR DESIRE IS YOUR GREATEST WEAPON.
SETSU
PLEASE PLAY A PRACTICE ROUND WITH YOUR SISTER AS ALWAYS,

YUE!
THE COACH IS GOING TO CONFIRM THE CONTESTANTS
MY NAME WASN'T CALLED...?
NYAAAA
NUPAAA
SECOND YEAR, TORII MIKAWA...
EH?!
...NONE THIS TIME
FROM THE FRESHMEN...
AND TANAKAI KYOUKO
eeehh!?
HER FINGER HAS HEALED?
FINGER?

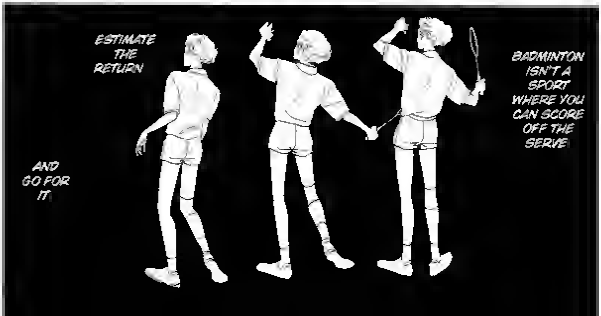

WHOA!
KYOUKO-SENPAI!
OH, YOU MEANT THE SPRAINED FINGER?
IT WAS ONLY SPRAINED...?
HMM, DON'T TELL ME YOU TOOK ME SERIOUSLY?
I WAS JUST FOOLING AROUND.
AFTER THE KID LEFT...
I DIDN'T FRACTURE ANYTHING, RIGHT, SETSU?
WE PLAYED AGAINST EACH OTHER EVERY DAY.
YOU'RE LYING.

IT'S TRUE.
CALM DOWN!
LET ME GO. YOU LIAR! I BELIEVED YOU!
YUE!

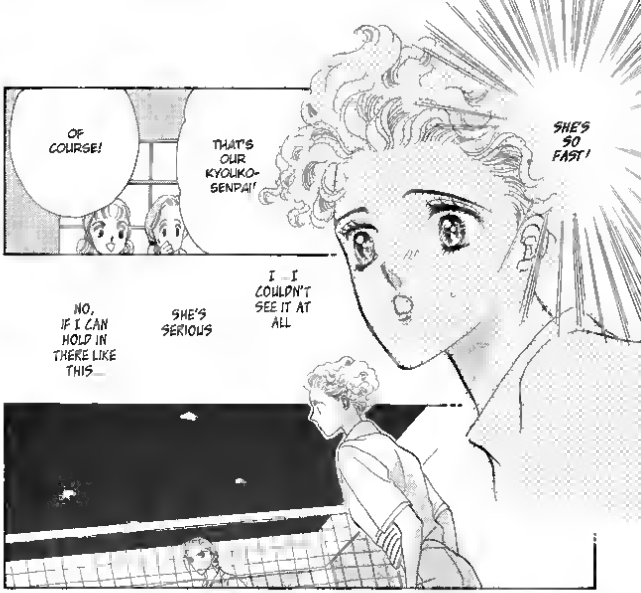
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ABLE TO DO IT...
I THOUGHT YOU COULD WIN AGAINST KYOUKO
YES, I KNEW KYOUKO WAS LYING!
BUT EVEN SO, I STILL SAID I'D MAKE YOU WIN!
IF YOU CAN'T STAND SOMETHING LIKE THAT... THEN YOU MIGHT AS WELL QUIT!
KYOUKO-SENPAI...
IS SHE STILL AROUND?
Stab

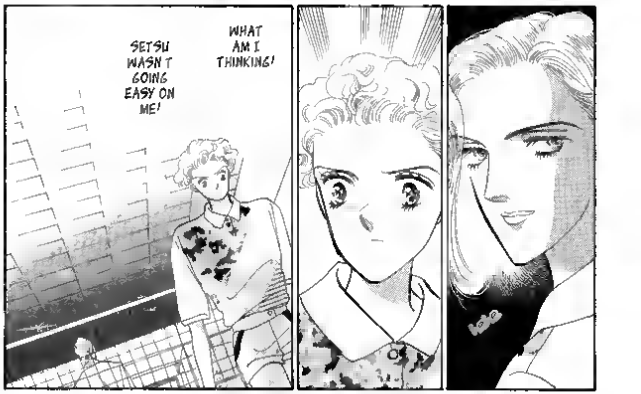
KYOUKO-SENPAI!
PLEASE PLAY A GAME WITH ME!
CAPTAIN
WAIT, WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO...
IF I WIN THE GAME...
I'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITION.
I HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF WINNING IT...
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO SOON.
SO IT'LL ONLY BE A SINGLE MATCH.

HITTING THE SHUTTLE COCK
AND NOT LETTING THEM HIT IT.
ONLY TWO THINGS MATTER.
swish
LOVE, ALL COURT.


ESTIMATE THE RETURN
AND GO FOR IT
BADMINTON ISN'T A SPORT WHERE YOU CAN SCORE OFF THE SERVE

SHE JUST NATURALLY MIMICKED MY STYLE.
WHOA!
HER FORM IS GREAT. DID YOU TEACH HER THAT?
NO.
SLAM
PING


OF COURSE!
THAT'S OUR KYOUKO-SENPAI!
SHE'S SO FAST!
I... I COULDN'T SEE IT AT ALL
SHE'S SERIOUS
NO, IF I CAN HOLD IN THERE LIKE THIS...


SETSU WASN'T GOING EASY ON ME!
WHAT AM I THINKING!

I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO SCORE AGAINST HER!
tnack
swoosh
AH!
WELL, WE'VE ALREADY REACHED THE MATCH POINT.
KYOUKO ISN'T GOING EASY ON HER
10
0
BUT YUE CAN STILL PULL IT OFF
EH?
KYOUKO-SENPAI'S SMASHES ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE!
SHE'S READING HER MOVES BECAUSE SHE'S USING MY FORMS
YUE IS FAR TO THE RIGHT.
SHE CAN SCORE WITH A CROSS!

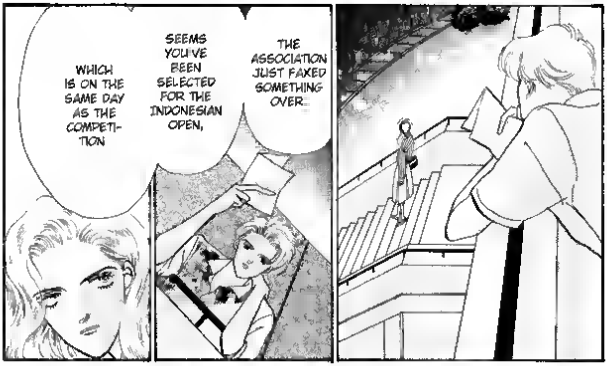
TWACK
AND HIT THEM!
I CAN STILL RUN
I CAN STILL BELIEVE IN MYSELF.
THERE'LL DEFINITELY BE A CHANCE!

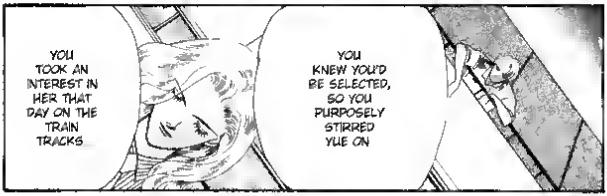
PING
REALLY? I THINK THE FEATHERS ...ARE ROMAN-TIC
I HATE THIS SOUND
IT'S BAD FOR THE HEART
PING
PING
IT'S ALREADY MATCH POINT
HEY, HOW FAR INTO THE RALLY ARE WE?
PING
IT'S THE SOUND OF ANGELS FLYING
NOW!
GOOOOOOOOO!!
TW
ACK

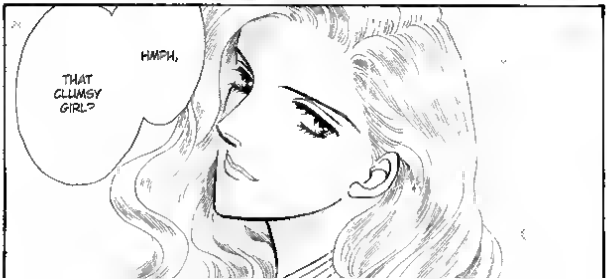
Slash
Thump
I'M... DONE
drip
I'M OUT OF STRENGTH
I CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE.
YUE SCORED ON KYOUKO-SENPAI!
I DID IT
QUICK! YUE'S SERVE!

IT'S MY LOSS
RIGHT
THEN I'M OFF
YOU STAY HERE AND PRACTICE
WE'LL FREEZE THE MATCH FOR NOW,
AND COME BACK TO IT AFTER YOU'VE IMPROVED
YUE...!
KYOUKO-SENPAI
YOU'RE GREAT!
YOU CAN BECOME A REGULAR PLAYER!

YOU'RE STILL AS CUNNING AS EVER, SIS


THE ASSOCIATION JUST FAXED SOMETHING OVER...
SEEMS YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE INDONESIAN OPEN,
WHICH IS ON THE SAME DAY AS THE COMPETI-TION


YOU KNEW YOU'D BE SELECTED, SO YOU PURPOSELY STIRRED YUE ON
YOU TOOK AN INTEREST IN HER THAT DAY ON THE TRAIN TRACKS


HMPH,
THAT CLUMSY GIRL?

WHEN I SCORED AGAINST KYOUKO SENPAI KNEW...
THAT I'D KEEP CHASING AFTER THAT FEELING.
WE HAVE A CHANGE TO THE COMPETITION LINEUP.
FRESHMAN SHINAGAWA YUE
YES!

END <Angel Touch>
1993 DELUXE BETSUCOMI JUNE 30TH ISSUE

NIGERU NATSU

Story 1:

First Goal

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Storm in Heaven
http://www.stormInHeaven.net

FIRST
GOAL

PREFECTURE HIGH SCHOOL TRACK MEET
JUMP
THANKS!
KANA, YOU'RE GREAT!
AN EASY FIRST!

KANA HAS STOOD OUT AS AN ATHLETE EVER SINCE OUR DAYS IN JUNIOR HIGH
Oh, don't be like that again.
I've high hopes for you, Takami
SHE'S KEPT ENCOURAGING ME THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL... EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T MADE ANY PROGRESS
I'M PROUD TO CALL HER A FRIEND
HOW ABOUT YOU, TAKAMI?
AH, IT'S NO USE
I COULD HARDLY KEEP UP WITH YOU
I'M FINE AS IS
BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT, KANA
THAT'S WHAT I KNEW WHEN I SAW YOU PERFORM AT THE MEET
I'LL STAND BY YOU AND SUPPORT YOU,
SO WILL YOU RUN IN MY PLACE?
TAKAMI YOU KNOW...
BOYS 200 METER DASH, FIRST PLACE

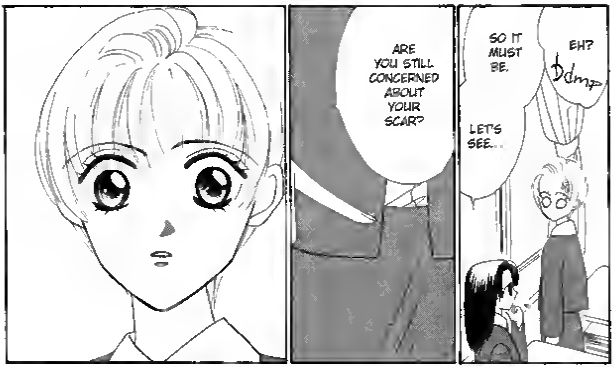
THE FRESHMAN FROM KAIMEI HIGH SCHOOL, OKANO
WOO-HOO!
Woah
OKANO!
Cappa
WOW. KANA! IT'S OKANO!
He's so cool!
OF COURSE HE TOOK FIRST!
THAT'S RIGHT. HAVE YOU GIVEN OKANO YOUR LETTER?
I'VE GIVEN UP
EH!? BUT YOU SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT YESTERDAY WRITING IT
I CAN'T DO IT. IT'S OKANO. HE WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT. HE'S JUST TOO FAMOUS!

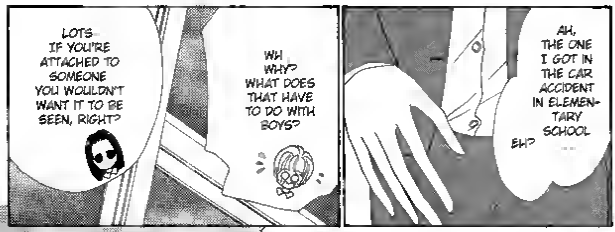
FINE THEN, I'LL HAND IT TO HIM FOR YOU!
BUT YOU'LL BE FINE, KANA! YOU'RE OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN HURDLES!
TAKAMI!
I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR KANA
A LETTER?
I CAN'T ACCEPT IT, SO JUST RETURN IT
HUH?
IT'S OKANO
I'D ONLY BE TOO HAPPY TO HELP

BLUSH
HE KNOWS MY NAME!
INOUE TAKAMI, A FRESHMAN AT MIWA GIRLS HIGH
AFTER THE RACE, YOU TRIPPED OVER A HURDLE, DIDN'T YOU?
IT DOESN'T MATTER!
BUT DON'T YOU REMEMBER? IT'S FROM YAMAZAKI KANA, WHO WAS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL TRACK MEET WITH YOU...
BUT ANYWAY, WHY DO YOU HAVE IT?
KANA'S MY BEST FRIEND!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME DELIVERING THIS FOR HER!?
AREN'T YOU POPULAR!
WHAT'S WITH THAT GIRL?
Ahahaha
AH, WHAT AN HONOUR.
BEST FRIEND!?
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'LL DO ANYTHING FOR HER?
AH, FORGET ABOUT ME!

IF I ACCEPT THE LETTER
YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF ME FOR ONE NIGHT IN RETURN,
INOUE
YOU'RE DESPI-CABLE!
SLAP
WHAT HAPPENED, YOUJI?
WHY'D SHE SAY THAT?

I WAS ONLY TEASING HER
SHE'S STILL A KID
GEEZ, I'M SO ANGRY!
WHAT'S MAKING YOU SO RILED UP, TAKAMI?
OF COURSE! EVERYONE HAS BEEN DECEIVED BY HIS TRACK RECORD AND PRETTY FACE!
I'M AN IDIOT AS WELL!
Class 1-3
TAKAMI, YOU'VE NEVER TOLD ME WHAT BOY YOU LIKE, HAVE YOU?
.....


ARE YOU STILL CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SCAR?
SO IT MUST BE.
LET'S SEE...
EH?
Ddmp


LOTS IF YOU'RE ATTACHED TO SOMEONE YOU WOULDN'T WANT IT TO BE SEEN, RIGHT?
WH WHY? WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH BOYS?
AH, THE ONE I GOT IN THE CAR ACCIDENT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
EH? ...

I'LL BE SKIPPING OUT ON THE CLUB AND HAVING AN OPERATION DURING WINTER BREAK
I WAS LOSING SOME WEIGHT, SO I WENT TO HAVE A CHECK-UP AND FOUND OUT ABOUT MY ILLNESS
ME TOO, I'M GOING TO HAVE AN OPERATION ON MY STOMACH
I never thought about that
OH, IS THAT SO?

BUT I'LL PROBABLY BE IN REHAB FOR HALF A YEAR
I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL STILL BE ABLE TO RUN TRACK.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE FINE AFTER THE OPERATION, RIGHT?
KANA .. !?
THAT'S.
KANA...
BUT I GUESS IT'S NO GOOD
I WANTED TO CONFESS MY FEELINGS TO OKANO BEFORE BEING HOSPITALISED.
I JUST DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO BREAK IT TO YOU AFTER SEEING YOUR HOPES FOR ME
SORRY.
SORRY,
THAT'S HORRIBLE!

I CAN'T LET THIS HAPPEN
KANA'S NOT THE SAME AS ME
DON'T WORRY.
I'M SURE HE'LL ACCEPT IT THIS TIME
TAKA-MI...
I'LL... HELP YOU GIVE HIM THE LETTER.
AT LEAST CONCERNING OKANO...
EXCUSE ME CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THE TRACK TEAM IS?
AH IT'S OVER THERE
ALTHOUGH I REALLY DREAD MEETING THAT GUY AGAIN...
IT'S BOY KANA

beep
GOOD.
clack
ONCE MORE
YOUJI, THAT'S FINE
YOUR START ISN'T BAD...
You've already done this 200 times this morning
IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE NATIONAL ATHLETIC MEET
tadaima
okaeri

Sob
CAN I HELP YOU?
DON'T BE NERVOUS, TAKAMI. HIS SPORT'S RECORD AND PERSONALITY DON'T MATCH AT ALL!
PLEASE, I REALLY WANT YOU TO ACCEPT KANA'S LETTER.

HAH!
YOU BELIEVED THAT!?
A JOKE LIKE THAT...
!
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL SPEND THE NIGHT WITH YOU. BUT I'LL DO ANYTHING ELSE!
I'M SORRY.
ANY-WAY...
I'M NOT THAT IMMORAL
THAT'S CRIMINAL
Ahahaha!

WOW....
WOULD YOU FOLLOW ME?
THIS OLD CLUB ROOM...
IS USED AS A STORE-ROOM NOW
THE COACH KEEPS THESE FOR ME
ALL THIS...

YEAH
HE'S REALLY SERIOUS
AND THERE'S ONLY TWO MORE YEARS LEFT IN HIGH SCHOOL THERE'S REALLY NO TIME TO RELAX
THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER GUYS ON THE TEAM,
I GIVE THINGS BACK RIGHT AWAY, THOUGH!
EVEN THOUGH TRACK AND FIELD IS A MINOR SPORT, PEOPLE KEEP SENDING STUFF
CLACK
EH?
BESIDES, IT'S REALLY DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THAT FROM YAMAZAKI,
—SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S THE BEST FRIEND OF THE GIRL I LIKE

I'M REALLY SORRY. I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO TAKE THAT JOKE SO SERIOUSLY.
BUT...
NO!
STOP JOKING AROUND! YOU'RE FOOLING WITH ME AGAIN...
ST...
I COULDN'T KEEP MY COOL, SEEING YOU BEFORE BECAUSE I KNEW...
—YOU WERE HERE TO PASS ME THE LETTER.
IT WAS REALLY DISAPPOINTING...
—WOULD YOU GO OUT WITH ME?
I'M NOT ARROGANT ENOUGH TO THINK THAT YOU LIKE ME. BUT...

NOT POSSIBLE
THAT'S
I'LL EXPLAIN TO HER WHY I CAN'T ACCEPT IT.
THAT SHOULD DO.
HUH?
GIVE IT TO ME.
AH.
AWW!
YAMA-ZAKI'S LETTER
I'LL RETURN IT PER-SON-ALLY.
I THOUGHT SO.
YEAH?

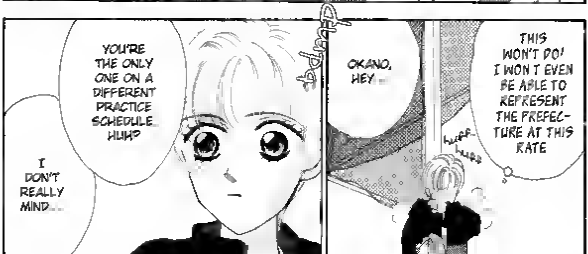
SSSt
THAT'S MY BUS
INOUE
WOULD YOU GO OUT WITH ME?
Are you alright miss?
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

WHY AM I TREMBLING?
THE LETTER WAS SENT BACK
I RECEIVED A CALL EARLIER, APOLOGIZING FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ACCEPT IT.
OH... I SEE
Class 1-3
AREN'T YOU SHOCKED?
YEAH... A LITTLE...
BUT I THOUGHT OKANO'S REACTION WAS PRETTY NORMAL...

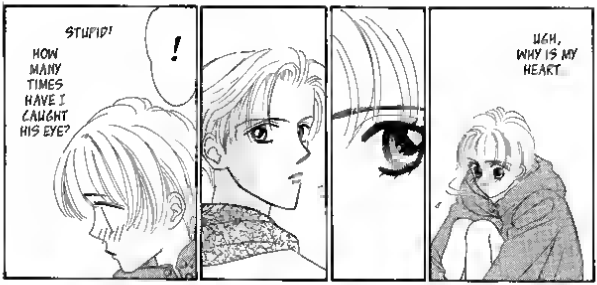
EH?
I'D REALLY LIKE TO GO AND TAKE A LOOK AT OKANO'S PRACTICE AT LEAST ONCE
I FOUND OUT THAT MY APPLICATION TO BE EXCUSED FROM THE CLUB HAS BEEN APPROVED
A field trip!
ANYWAY, THAT WAS OUR FIRST CONVERSATION BUT HE WAS VERY FRIENDLY
HE REALLY IS A GREAT GUY
Yeah.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? BECAUSE OUR COACH IS TRAINING OVERSEAS,
WE'LL BE HAVING OUR TRAINING SESSIONS WITH OKANO'S SCHOOL STARTING TODAY.
I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
I THOUGHT WE'D NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN AND NOW, SO SOON...
First of all your practice schedule.

smile
adidas
adidas SOUVENIR

whoo
oosh


YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE ON A DIFFERENT PRACTICE SCHEDULE, HUH?
I DON'T REALLY MIND...
OKANO, HEY...
THIS WON'T DO! I WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO REPRESENT THE PREFECTURE AT THIS RATE

YOU'VE GOT A DIFFERENT AURA ALTOGETHER.
THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT OF A NATIONAL REP, HUH?
YOUR WORLD'S REALLY DIFFERENT FROM OURS
adidas EQUIPMENT
OKANO!
KANA!
THAT GIRL'S COMPETING FOR THE NATIONALS TOO.
NO SHIT.
IT WOULDN'T LOOK BAD IF KANA WAS THE REPRESENTATIVE
SHE'S PRETTY AS WELL, SO SHE CAN BE ON OKANO'S LEVEL
adidas EQUIPMENT
throb


STUPID!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I CAUGHT HIS EYE?
!
UGH, WHY IS MY HEART

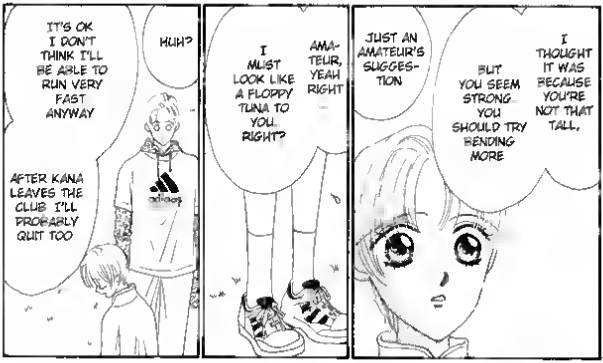
I KEEP LOOKING AT OKANO

I WAS THINKING
THANKS SEE YOU!

DO YOU LOSE YOUR BALANCE WHEN YOU JUMP?
adidas

THE WATER COOLER IS OVER THERE
INOUE.

AH.


IT'S OK I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO RUN VERY FAST ANYWAY
HUH?
AFTER KANA LEAVES THE CLUB I'LL PROBABLY QUIT TOO
I MUST LOOK LIKE A FLOPPY TUNA TO YOU, RIGHT?
AMA-TEUR, YEAH RIGHT
JUST AN AMATEUR'S SUGGES-TION
BUT YOU SEEM STRONG YOU SHOULD TRY BENDING MORE
I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT THAT TALL,

. TO GO OUT WITH YOU!? YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED KANA!
WHY ASK ME
HEY

FLUTTER

COME WITH ME
adidas
EQUIPMENT
sssttt
ssttt
sssttt
RUMBLE
AHHH!

SFX FLASH

I FORGOT TO HAVE IT FIXED
CLATTER
THE SKYLIGHT IS PRETTY RATTY, AND I CAN'T GET IT CLOSED
WHAT'S WRONG?
Clatter
GAH, NO GOOD
Splash

!
AHH...
SPLASH
DAMMIT, IT'S TRUE
QUIT LAUGHING!
BUT THIS IS SO FUNNY!!!
OH, SORRY
OH
BUT
YOU LAUGH TOO EASILY!

NO..!

I SHOULD SHAKE MYSELF FREE.
CLA.
CK

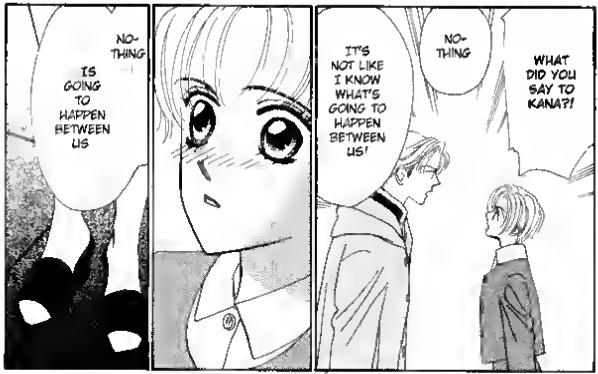
!!
NO...!
AH...
MY SCAR...

INOUE!
KANA!
CLICK
ARE YOU HERE, TAKAMI?
SHOCK
TAKAMI!
SORRY
WHERE WERE YOU? PRACTICE ENDED BECAUSE OF THE RAIN
I was taking shelter

"SORRY."
THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD HAVE TOLD KANA.
RIGHT THEN, I DIDN'T WANT OKANO TO SEE MY SCAR.
I...
...LIKE OKANO.
adiaas
EQUIPMENT

EH? YOU'RE SKIPPING THE CLUB TODAY TOO?
I HAVE A SLIGHT COLD
OH, MUST HAVE BEEN THE RAIN
YOU'RE GOING TO BE HOSPITALIZED NEXT WEEK RIGHT?
YES THE CHECKUPS WILL TAKE A LONG TIME SO PLEASE COME AND VISIT ME
SORRY KANA
I JUST COULDN'T GO TO OKANO'S HIGH SCHOOL
IF I SEE HIM NOW
I WON'T

MOM?
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU'D BE WORKING LATE TODAY?
DING DONG...
YOU DON'T LOOK SICK
HOLD ON!
WHO GAVE YOU MY ADDRESS?
I JUST HAD TO ASK YAMAZAKI, RIGHT?


WHAT DID YOU SAY TO KANA?!
NO-THING
IT'S NOT LIKE I KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN BETWEEN US!
NO-THING
IS GOING TO HAPPEN BETWEEN US

THEN GO TO PRACTICE!
I HAVE A COLD!
YOU DON'T HAVE A FEVER.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU ALL THIS WHILE
NOW YOU WERE TREMBLING THEN
AND YOUR COLD FINGERS
I KNOW YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT YAMAZAKI,
BUT I BELIEVE WE FEEL THE SAME ABOUT EACH OTHER
INOUE
YANK
STOP IT!

AND ALL I CAN DO IS RUN AWAY LIKE THIS
SHE IS MY FRIEND. LIKE YOU SAID,

IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF KANA!
I'M NOT THAT GOOD A FRIEND!

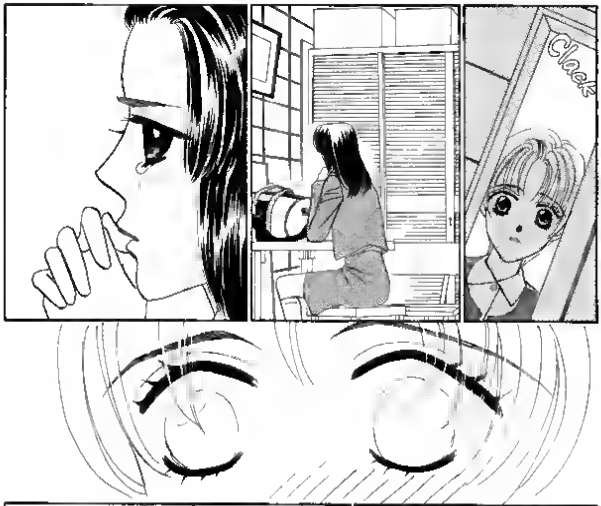
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE MY SCAR BACK THEN

SCAR OR NOT, I WANT TO BE WITH YOU.
Twist

EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T IMPROVED SINCE I ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL,
WATCHING KANA RUN MADE ME HAPPY.

I WON'T BETRAY HER NOT HER
I'LL GO TELL KANA
IT'S NOTHING
HMM?
BY THE WAY, TAKAMI
I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW.
I'LL TELL HER

TAKAMI!
SHE PROBABLY WON'T FORGIVE ME.
BUT I HAVE TO AT LEAST BE HONEST.
CAPTAIN
I'VE ALREADY TALKED TO KANA ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S SEASON
WE'LL BE FOCUSING ON YOU FOR THE GIRL'S HURDLES IN HER PLACE
TRAIN WITH THAT IN MIND
WOW
KANA WILL FEEL BETTER WITH YOU REPLACING HER, TOO
ISN'T THAT GREAT, TAKAMI?
GIRL'S TRAC


Clack

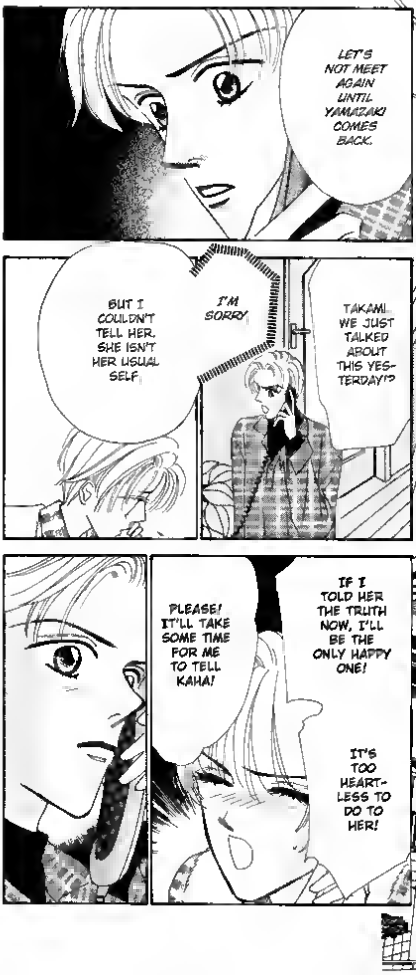
KANA...
STOP!

AH...
WHAT? IS PRACTICE STARTING?

I MIGHT JUST BE BACK! YEAH RIGHT
IF YOU CAME TO COLLECT MY JERSEYS I'M GOING TO CRY

始まりのGOAL

KANA...
LISTEN, TAKAMI. YOU HAVE TO TRAIN HARD, OKAY?
DO MY SHARE TOO
KANA...!
IT'S ALRIGHT I UNDERSTAND
I MIGHT GET DEPRESSED BEFORE THE OPERATION
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU...!
I CAN'T SAY IT.
THOUGH I'M FRUSTRATED AND WORRIED, YOUR SMILE WILL HELP ME
KANA, OF ALL PEOPLE

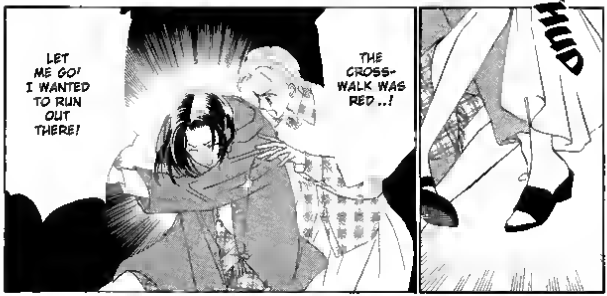

LET'S NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL YAMAZAKI COMES BACK.
I CAN'T BETRAY YOU NOW
I'M SORRY
TAKAMI, WE JUST TALKED ABOUT THIS YESTERDAY!?
BUT I COULDN'T TELL HER. SHE ISN'T HER USUAL SELF.
PLEASE! IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME FOR ME TO TELL KAHA!
IF I TOLD HER THE TRUTH NOW, I'LL BE THE ONLY HAPPY ONE!
IT'S TOO HEARTLESS TO DO TO HER!

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
IN THAT CASE,
WHAT IF THAT MEANS WE'RE FINISHED?
KANA...!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE I CAN DO
BUT IF I DO THAT, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF.
NO MATTER WHO I HAVE TO HURT, I WANT TO BE WITH OKANO.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I CHOSE THE PATH THAT WOULD HURT OKANO.
CHING!
OKANO

!
Knock knock
TAKAMI!
I'M STILL
I CAN'T ACCEPT WHAT YOU SAID ON THE PHONE
EVEN IF IT'LL TAKE TIME IT'S STILL IMPORTANT FOR US TO BE TOGETHER.
WE CAN'T BE APART RIGHT NOW
OKANO!?

KANA...!
I TRIED CALLING YOU, BUT THE LINE WOULDN'T GO THROUGH
I WONDERED IF I SHOULD TRY CALLING OKANO
THEN HIS FAMILY TOLD ME THAT HE JUST DASHED OUT OF THE HOUSE...
KANA...
I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD, BUT...
I HAD FAITH IN YOU, TAKAMI
DON'T TOUCH ME!
SL
~AD

KANA!
YOU LIAR!
WAIT, KANA...
KANA!?
FMATE
IGARASHI


LET ME GO! I WANTED TO RUN OUT THERE!
THE CROSS-WALK WAS RED..!
THUD

HE'D BE TIED TO ME, JUST LIKE HE'S TIED TO YOU!
IF I WERE HURT, HE'D PAY ATTENTION TO ME!

SO... YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
HUH?

THE CAR THAT GAVE YOU THAT SCAR...
...WAS DRIVEN BY OKANO'S FATHER.
BACK THEN OKANO OCCASIONALLY SUFFERED FROM ASTHMA.
AND ON THAT DAY, HIS DAD WAS FRANTICALLY DRIVING HIM TO THE HOSPITAL...
HE STARTED BEING CONCERNED ABOUT YOU THEN.
THAT WAS WHAT YOU TOLD ME, OKANO.
WHEN YOU ASKED ME FOR TAKAMI'S ADDRESS...

IT'S REALLY HARD TO HAVE A SCAR.
BECAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL...
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE...!
PAIN IS PAINFUL
THAT'S WHY...
YOU WEREN'T SURPRISED WHEN YOU SAW MY SCAR
YOU GOT CLOSE TO ME BECAUSE YOU FELT GUILTY.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT!
I THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY THAT SOMEONE LIKE YOU WOULD LIKE ME.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR IT—!

THE REASONS I FELL FOR YOU ARE BORING ORDINARY ONES
THAT'S ENOUGH!
I GET IT. I CAN'T GET PAST THAT
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BOUND BY GUILT, TAKAMI
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I CAN'T BELIEVE IN US EITHER

始まりのGOAL

YAMAZAKI, I'LL TAKE YOU HOME
SORRY TAKAMI
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU IF I HAD BEEN HONEST WITH YOU
BUT I CAN'T STAND IT!
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU, TAKAMI!

APRIL
Prefecture High
School Rookie
Competition

I MET HIM AT THE HOSPITAL
AH THAT'S MY BOYFRIEND
He's a soccer player
THANKS TO IT I'LL BE BACK IN SCHOOL NEXT WEEK.
HEY! HOW'S THE REHAB COMING?
CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SPORTS MEET!
TAKAMI'S TRAINING IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY AS WELL.
THAT'S GREAT.
I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HER RECENTLY, AND SHE'S IN REALLY GOOD SHAPE
JUST LIKE OUR JUNIOR HIGH DAYS WHEN WE COMPETED AGAINST EACH OTHER
AHH..
THAT'S NOT SURPRISING SINCE SHE CAN CONCENTRATE ON HER TRAINING AFTER BREAKING UP WITH HER BOYFRIEND.

WE'VE BEEN WAITING.
I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE TO KANA.
I WANTED TO JUMP HIGHER.
BUT I GAVE UP ONE DAY
I DECEIVED MYSELF THAT IT'S ALRIGHT, SINCE I HAD KANA AS MY BEST FRIEND
92

AND THEN
92
INSTEAD OF A HALF-HEARTED FRIENDSHIP, I'LL REVEAL MY INTENTIONS AND CATCH UP WITH KANA.
I WANT TO WIN. I FEEL THAT STRONGLY NOW.
TO BE HONEST, I WASN'T SURE I'D COMPETE AGAIN.
BUT SEEING TAKAMI NOW, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT I'D LOSE FOR SURE
READY...
SET...

GO!
I'LL RUN. BOTH OF THEM WILL BE AT THE GOAL.
NISHI

AND THEN,
IT'LL BEGIN
FROM
THERE.

END <FIRST GOAL>

1996年デラックス別冊少女コミック1月30日号に掲載